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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

Classification

Control: 2782

EUR

Rec'd: February 5, 1959
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Info

FROM: Bremen

RMR

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 33, February 5, 10 a.m.

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SENT DEPARTMENT 33, BONN 26.

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Senator Helmken told me he will represent Land Bremen at Bundesrat February 6. Intends making following demand regarding coal import bill and depending response will decide whether Bremen will vote against or abstain voting on bill.

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1. Coal import quota must be distributed equitably between export countries; namely, 34 percent annual average imports 1956, 1957 and 1958.

2. Distribution of import quota among importers must give preference long-standing customers and exclude new.

3. Ruhr coal industry must compensate exporters, importers and shipping lines for losses incurred result cancellations contracts.

4. Arrangement must be made allow importers overcome uncertainty now existing re whether can or cannot carry out contracts after February 16.

Senator Helmken stated Land Bremen had considered proposed duty accomplished fact which Bundesrat could not now change and had no intention request increase quota over 5 million tons even though Bundesrat approval required for quota. However, when informed importers United States coal claim definite contracts with customers for which freight already contracted amounts 8 million tons for 1959, he stated he would consider proposing Bundestag increase quota to cover that amount.

LEWIS

MJT/9

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